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FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM Kaleidoscope

STATION WAMU-FM

DATE January 5, 1984 10:00 A.M. CITY Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT Interview with Claire Sterling

DIANE REHM: Just before Christmas, Pope John Paul II offered his forgiveness to Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turkish terrorist who shot and nearly killed him back in May of 1981. But investigative reporter Claire Sterling says Agca did not act alone and that Western leaders have deliberately tried to mislead the public about a conspiracy to kill the Pope. She's with me in our first hour.

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REHM: ...assassins. Investigative reporter Claire Sterling says there was an organized plot to murder Pope John Paul II, and traces its source to the Bulgarian secret services, acting on behalf of the Soviet KGB. But she charges that the Western public was deliberately misled by its own leaders to believe there was never a conspiracy at all.

I'm Diane Rehm. Claire Sterling is here in the studio with me. And we'll be taking your calls during the hour on 966-8850.

Claire Sterling, it's nice to have you here again.

CLAIRE STERLING: I'm glad to be back.

REHM: This is a story that definitely continues to unfold. But from the beginning, it was a very confusing one for us here in the Western World.

STERLING: Well, it was very confusing because there was evidence from the very start, from the very minute this young man was arrested that he could not have acted alone. But within 48